

Press Release

BeWelcome celebrates its 10th anniversary

Rennes/France, 19.02.2017. It has been 10 years since BeWelcome, the non-profit hospitality exchange community went online and began connecting locals and travellers worldwide. Throughout 2017, members will organize anniversary activities and events to celebrate this anniversary. No other online hospitality exchange network has reached this non-profit milestone.

One "birthday party" will take place in Berlin/Germany during the long weekend of May 1st. BeWelcome members from all over the world will meet and enjoy various activities like a discovery tour of the city, picnics and beer tasting. Another major BeWelcome event will happen in Toulouse/France during the first weekend of June. Local members will organize a treasure hunt, wine tasting and other activities. They invite all BeWelcome members to join them.

The many different backgrounds and diversity of BeWelcome members show that opening the door to other people or showing them around one's home town is not the remit of a few free spirited students or the privileged few. On the contrary, opening one's door and really diving into the local culture is an opportunity open to everyone.

"Meeting locals is always a unique experience and will very likely influence the perceptions we have of a culture or a country", says Anja Kühner, spokesperson and member of the board of directors of BeVolunteer, the non-profit organization behind BeWelcome. She invites travellers who are interested in a deeper understanding of other cultures to look for hospitality through BeWelcome. For those who do not travel, she invites those with an open heart and mind to open their doors and invite others to understand everyone has a place in the global village. A village full of hospitality and exchange - following the vision of BeWelcome.

About BeWelcome:

BeWelcome (www.bewelcome.org) is a non-commercial online platform and a community which enables hospitality exchange. Within the first 10 years, about 90.000 members joined BeWelcome. The network enables guest-host-experiences and encounters in almost every country around the globe. Both travellers and locals can sign up, create a user profile, host travellers, find hosts and share experiences. No money is involved in the hosting experience. The website runs on open source code and the safety of the members and their data is a top priority. BeWelcome.org is based on transparency, a living grassroots democracy, run exclusively by volunteers and funded by donations only. Every member can become a volunteer and support the project. Thanks to the volunteer translators, the website is available in more than 40 different languages.

About BeVolunteer:

BeVolunteer is the legal entity behind BeWelcome. BeVolunteer is registered as a non-profit association in Rennes/France.